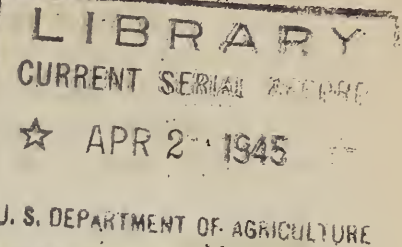


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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending February 16, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

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Potatoes: Movement by car, during most of the week, increased so that shipments from Idaho totaled 1,136 cars compared with 765 cars the week previous. The past week, Maine moved 1,505 cars and the U. S. total was 5,049 cars, slightly under that for the previous week. Season's total to date: Idaho 27,344 cars, U. S. 205,337 cars: compared with the last season same date, Idaho 28,473 cars, and U. S. 221,150 cars.

Both fob and wholesale prices have remained at ceiling. Supplies have lessened as the season advances. Lack of shipping space in the next thirty days may benefit the west. It will probably tend to prolong the period through which shipments from Idaho will be available. Regarding supplies from Maine, the transportation shortage may not produce any beneficial results, as that area must continue to make heavy daily shipments to clear the crop.

Lettuce: Shipping point sales on lettuce closed the week at \$2.25 to \$2.50 per crate of 4s and 5s. Wholesale prices; Southwest, best \$3.00 to \$4.00, Northwest, mostly \$3.50 to \$3.75. The car embargo somewhat restricted shipments the early part of the past week. 1,196 cars were moved from Western Region lettuce sections, compared with 1,164 cars for the previous week. Throughout the U. S. a total of 1,222 cars were shipped. Totals for the season to date: Western Region 9,702 cars, U. S. 25,274 cars.

Peas: Movement of peas from Imperial Valley, California, has been irregular the past week. 32 cars have moved to terminal points, bringing the Western Region total to 125 cars since the first of the year. In the U. S., 52 cars were shipped for the week, with the year's total at 189 cars. In addition to these, Mexico shipped into the U. S. 92 cars during the past week.

Prices on western wholesale markets closed the week at \$2.00 to \$2.75 in the Southwest, \$4.00 to \$4.75 in the Northwest (unit--bushel basket). 1945 acreage in Imperial Valley, California, is estimated at 4,500 acres, compared with 6,400 in 1944, and a ten-year average of 5,630 acres.

Cabbage: Western Region fob shipping point sales the past week held at \$1.75 per crate in used crates for round type, domestic stock, and in 50 pound sacks at 90 cents to \$1.10. At the close of the week prices on sacked stock dropped five to ten cents per sack. Wholesale prices were \$1.75 to \$2.00 in the southwest, and \$3.50 to \$4.00 in the northwest.

Carlot shipments the past week have averaged 63 cars daily from the Western Region, and 118 cars daily from all U. S. shipping points. As more cars are available, the movement is expected to increase.

(OVER)

The four winter cabbage producing states, California, Texas, Arizona and Florida have a combined intended total for 1945 of 65,650 acres. This is 22 percent below the acreage for 1944, but 35 percent above the ten year average (1934-43). Intended acreage in California is 11,100 acres compared to 15,400 acres in 1944 and 7,970 acres, ten-year average. In Arizona, intended acreage is 550 acres, compared to 1,600 acres in 1944, and 460 acres for the ten-year average.

Oranges: Carlot movement increased the past week to 1,253 cars from the Western Region, and 3,218 cars for the whole U. S. representing increases of 43 percent and 32 percent respectively. Western wholesale prices for all sizes ranged \$4.50 to \$5.35 per box at the close of the week.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:

Eggs: WFA has announced details of the 1945 egg support program which includes dried and shell egg purchases to supply export outlets, and frozen or shell egg purchases for direct price support. Copies of the detailed release may be obtained upon request.

Supplies continue to show increases in the west, but no large production and marketing increases such as experienced last season at this time. This year, the big volume is on the sales side of the picture with sales greatly exceeding last year's. Supplies in most quarters are more nearly meeting demand than last week at this time.

Butter: Demand has remained well above available civilian supplies. Set-aside more than offsets visible increases in production.

WFA has announced increased rates of pay for butter in relation to whole milk. Payment for whole milk will be 35 cents less per 100 pounds during April, May, and June. For butter, it will continue at 10 cents per pound until the third quarter and then be raised to 16 cents per pound.

Poultry: Dressing plants were having difficulty operating due to small supplies available. Both wholesale and retail demand have continued heavy and in excess of available supplies. Culling of flocks has apparently been close, as evidenced by the percentage of lower grade stock arriving on some of the markets. Prices remained at ceiling.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: 19,760 head of cattle were received in the four western markets the past week, little change from those of the week previous, but 34 percent greater than receipts for the same week a year ago. The twelve principal markets received 238,600 head the past week. This is an increase of 8 percent above the previous week and 25 percent above the same period a year ago.

Top prices on the western markets showed a wide range of \$15.50 to \$18.00 for good fed steers. Steers appeared to be in heavier proportion than previously.

Hogs: WFO #75.3 effective February 18, 1945, provides three set-aside changes. After February 18, packers will be required to set-aside 70 percent of the total boneless loins from the 4½ percent of live weight of each week's slaughter now set aside as loins. Increased from 60 percent. An additional 5 percent is added to the set-aside on pork bellies, making a total of 10 percent of the 5 percent live weight hogs set-aside in form of square-cut and seedless bellies. Live weigh-

set-aside or shoulder cuts has been changed to include trimmings, and increased 1 percent to a total of 9 percent.

Numbers of hogs received on the four western markets totaled 10,835 head for the past week, and 11 percent increase above the previous week but only 51 percent of receipts for the same week a year ago. On the twelve principal markets, receipts the past week were 222,800 head, 93 percent of receipts for the previous week, and 38 percent of those for the same week a year ago.

Demand on all western markets was heavy, and prices remained at ceiling.

Sheep: Quantities received past week were:

Four western markets; 12,625 head, 65 percent of the previous week, and 94 percent of the same week a year ago.

Twelve principal markets; 195,400 head, 80 percent of the previous week, and 106 percent of the same week a year ago.

Top prices ranged \$15.00 to \$16.40 on good fed lambs. Some of the markets reported advances of as much as 35¢. Demand and clearance were good.

GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Wheat: Review of the western wheat markets shows that during the past week Los Angeles moved up about 5 cents per 100 pounds above the previous week; San Francisco remained about the same; Portland advanced from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per bushel; and the Intermountain markets held about the same. Prices on Number One Hard White and Soft White ranged from \$1.53 in Portland to \$1.71 per bushel in Los Angeles at the close of the week.

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